

HOUSE No. 2288

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to increasing accessibility to nonlethal self defense sprays.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	26th Middlesex
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
David B. Sullivan	6th Bristol
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Paul McMurtry	11th Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2385 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY TO NONLETHAL SELF DEFENSE SPRAYS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority
of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 121 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the definition of “ammunition” and inserting
3 in place thereof the following definition: “Ammunition” cartridges or cartridge cases, primers
4 (igniter), bullets or propellant powder designed for use in any firearm, rifle or shotgun.

5 SECTION 2. Section 129B of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing, is hereby
6 amended by striking out in lines 140 through 142 the sentence, “A firearm identification card
7 shall be valid for the purpose of purchasing and possessing chemical mace, pepper spray or other
8 similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate.”

9 SECTION 3. Section 129B of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing, is hereby
10 amended by striking out in lines 206 through 210 the sentence, “A firearm identification card
11 issued under this clause shall display, in clear and conspicuous language, that the card shall be

valid only for the purpose of purchasing or possessing chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate.”

SECTION 4. 129B of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the clause “The application fee for a firearm identification card issued for the sole purpose of purchasing or possessing chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate shall be \$25, which shall be payable to the licensing authority and shall not be prorated or refunded in the case of revocation or denial. The licensing authority shall retain 50 per cent of the fee and the remaining portion shall be deposited in the General Fund. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, licensing authorities shall deposit quarterly that portion of the firearm identification card application fee which is to be deposited into the General Fund, not later than January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 of each year. There shall be no application fee for the renewal of a firearm identification card issued under this clause.

A firearm identification card issued under this clause shall display, in clear and conspicuous language, that the card shall be valid only for the purpose of purchasing or possessing chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate.”

SECTION 5. Section 131 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the clause, “and for purchasing and possessing chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate,”

SECTION 6. Section 131P of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out in lines 12 through 17, “;and provided further, that an applicant for a

firearms identification card for the sole purpose of purchasing or possessing chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate shall not be required to complete a basic firearms safety course as a prerequisite for receiving such card.”

SECTION 7. Section 3B of chapter 209A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting in line 7 after the words “and ammunition” the following words: “or chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate”

SECTION 8. Section 3C of chapter 209A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting in line 7 after the words “and ammunition” the following words: “or chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate”

SECTION 9. Section 121 of chapter 266 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting in line 2 after the words “with firearms” the following words: “or chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate,”

SECTION 10. Chapter 269 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after section 10A the following sections:

Section 10I. Any person who makes a sale or delivery of chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate, to any person under the age of eighteen shall be punished by a fine of not more than two thousand

dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. This section shall not prohibit the employment of any person over the age of eighteen from handling or selling such products and shall not prohibit a business from employing a person under the age of eighteen who does not directly handle or sell such products.

Section 10I½. Any person under the age of eighteen who possesses, purchases or attempts to purchase chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate, or makes arrangements with any person to purchase or procure such products, or who willfully misrepresents his age, or alters, defaces or falsifies his identification offered as proof of age, with the intent of purchasing such products shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

SECTION 11. Section 10C of chapter 269 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting in line 5 after the words “seven years” the following clause: “Whoever except in the lawful defense of life or property, willfully discharges chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate, with the intent to accost or annoy another person shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.”